

To: Card, Joan[Card.Joan@epa.gov]; McGrath, Shaun[McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Sat 9/19/2015 5:47:36 PM
Subject: Fwd: La Plata County Request for Expansion beyond 24 metals -- additional constituents/analytes

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jim Donovan <oem@sanjuancountycolorado.us>
Date: September 19, 2015 at 10:50:56 AM MDT
To: "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: "Jenkins, Laura Flynn" <Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov>, "Foster, Althea" <Foster.Althea@epa.gov>, "Calanog, Steve" <Calanog.Steve@epa.gov>, "Williams, Laura" <williams.laura@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: La Plata County Request for Expansion beyond 24 metals -- additional constituents/analytes

Hello Nancy
thank you for the information. I will forward this to the San Juan County/Silverton Administrators.
Jim

Jim Donovan
Emergency Manager
San Juan County, CO
PO Box 184
Silverton Co 81433
970-903-7039

On Sat, Sep 19, 2015 at 8:44 AM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Jim,

Following up on conversation yesterday regarding LaPlata County testing at the GKM site for additional analytes/constituents, below is the information that EPA presented to the LaPlata BOCC on 9/9 as our rationale for not having tested for the listed analytes, which is what we understand they are intending to sample for at the mine (and perhaps additional constituents).

We will keep you looped in on any further developments.

And, as always, feel free to call me on my cell at 857-829-8250.

Thanks

Nancy Grantham

Question: La Plata County has requested an additional suite of chemicals to be sampled from the source of the release.

Answer: We believe that the types of samples being collected combined with the suite of analytes being tested for represent what was most likely released from the mine based historical testing in the area. Testing has confirmed that conditions have returned to pre-incident conditions.

Additional discussion:

Current EPA testing parameters are consistent with prior EPA and non EPA assessments of the Animas River.

PCBs – Mine was closed in 1922. PCBs were introduced in 1928.

Dioxins – Dioxins are formed through a combustion process. It is not expected that there were combustion process within the mine.

Cyanide – Cyanide is used in the processing of ore. For the time period, EPA does not believe that cyanide was used nor would it have been used inside the mine.

Uranium – CDPHE conducted sediment and surface water samples and analyzed them Uranium. Results of that sampling indicated that levels do not pose a risk.

Nitrogen compounds - CDPHE conducted surface water samples and analyzed them for nitrates. Results of that sampling indicated that levels do not pose a risk.

Chromium speciation – Chromium is currently being tested. Speciation is normally done to identify Hex Chrome which is generally a man made product. Hex chrome was not being produced during the time period that the mine was in operation.

Organics (volatile and semi) – Organic compounds are not believed to have existed at the mine in quantities that would continue to pose a threat.